

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No: Continuation of USSN 09/037,546, filed March 9, 1998  
Applicant: James M. Zavislan  
Filed: Concurrently herewith  
Title: IMAGING SYSTEM USING MULTI-MODE LASER  
ILLUMINATION TO ENHANCE IMAGE QUALITY  
Examiner: J. Treas Art Unit: 2872  
Attorney Docket: ML-0473C

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the title, please insert --TO-- before "ENHANCE".

In the specification, first paragraph of page 1, rewrite as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/037,546, filed March 9, 1998, and is related to my U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/966,046, filed November 7, 1997 and Provisional Application Serial No. 60/072,334, filed January 23, 1998.

Please cancel Claims 1-11.

Please rewrite Claims 12, 13 and 14 as follows:

12. (amended) A scanning confocal microscope which comprises a laser providing an incident beam, a beam splitter, a scanner for scanning an image plane in a specimen section in general orthogonal X-Y directions in said plane, said laser being a plural transverse mode laser providing an amplitude distribution having a plurality of lobes in opposing phase relationship to form spaced spots in a focal plane in said section and capable of overlapping spots at one of behind, ahead, or behind and ahead, of said section, and an objective for focusing said spots in said focal plane, a confocal aperture, a photodetector behind said aperture, and optics for focusing return light from the spots deflected by said beam splitter at said aperture.

13. (amended) The microscope according to Claim 12 wherein said objective is movable together in a Z direction, generally orthogonal to said X-Y directions thereby selecting different focal planes of said specimen where said spaced spots are incident.

14. (amended) An optical coherence imaging system for imaging a specimen section, which comprises a source providing light having low temporal coherence propagating in transverse, opposing-phase, multi-mode, a beam splitter which directs the light from said source into a reference arm and a sample arm wherein the light is incident on an image plane in said transverse, opposing phase, multi-mode in which it propagates to said image plane in the specimen section and spatially overlaps at one of behind, ahead, or behind and ahead, of the image plane, a scanner in said sample arm for scanning [each] said specimen in generally orthogonal directions, and also in said sample arm, an objective having an optical axis for focusing said low temporal coherence transverse, opposing phase, multi-mode light at a plurality of spots, a detection arm into which light is directed by said beam splitter from said reference and sample arms, and means for providing images in response to interference of light in said detection arm.

Please add new Claim 18 as follows:

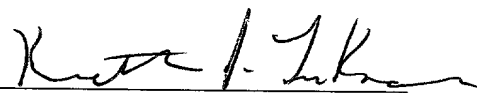
18. A system for imaging a section (or sections) of tissue comprising means for producing a beam having multiple, opposing-phase, transverse propagating modes, means for focusing said beam at a plurality of spots in said section of said tissue in accordance with said multiple, opposing phase, modes in which said modes overlap at one of behind, ahead, or behind and ahead, of the section, and collecting return light from said tissue, and means for detecting said return light combined from said plural spots to provide images representing said section of said tissue.

Remarks

Entry of this Amendment is requested for consideration by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 14, 2001

  
Kenneth J. LuKacher  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Registration No. 38,539

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452
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Marked-up version of amended Claims 12, 13 and 14.

12. (amended) A scanning confocal microscope which comprises a laser providing an incident beam, a [beamsplitter] beam splitter, a scanner for scanning an image [plan] plane in a specimen section in [generally] general orthogonal X-Y directions in said [plan] plane, said laser being a plural transverse mode laser providing an [intensity] amplitude distribution having a plurality of lobes in [out of] opposing phase relationship[, forming] to form spaced spots in a focal plane in said section and capable of overlapping spots at one of behind, ahead, or behind and ahead, of said section, [outside of said section,] and an objective for focusing said spots in said focal [plan] plane, a confocal aperture, a [photo detector] photodetector behind said aperture, and optics for focusing return light from the spots deflected by said beam splitter at said aperture.

13. (amended) The microscope according to Claim 12 wherein said objective is movable together in a Z direction, generally orthogonal to said X-Y directions thereby selecting different focal [plans] planes of said specimen where said spaced spots are incident.

14. (amended) An optical coherence imaging system for imaging a specimen section, which comprises a [laser] source providing light [which a] having low temporal coherence [and] propagating in transverse, opposing-phase, multi-mode, a beam splitter which directs the light from said source into a reference arm and a sample arm wherein the light is incident on an image [plan] plane in said transverse, opposing phase, multi-mode in which it propagates to said image plane in the [a] specimen section and spatially overlaps at one of behind, ahead, or behind and ahead, of the image plane, a scanner in [each] said sample arm for scanning [each] said specimen in generally orthogonal directions [on said plane], and also in said sample arm, an objective having an optical axis for focusing said low temporal coherence transverse, opposing phase, multi-mode light at a plurality of spots [offset from each other], [in] a detection arm [to] into which light is directed by said beam splitter from said reference and sample arms, and means for providing images in response to interference of light in said detection arm.

Page 1, first paragraph of the specification is amended as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/037,546, filed March 9, 1998, and is related to my U.S. [US] Patent Application[,] Serial No. 08-966,046, filed November 7, 1997 and provisional application Serial No. 60/072,334, filed January 23, 1998.